

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 EB-11 ACDA-19 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5403

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CSAF (CXOXX)

AFSC (DOS)

GRIFFIS AFB (DADC/OCLS)

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OGEN, OF

SUBJECT: TOP SEA PROJECT

REF: NASSAU 531; NASSAU 571

1. AS REPORTED NASSAU 571, AMBASSADORS LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN ADDERLEY ON MARCH 29 INCLUDED LENGHTY EXPLANATION BY LATTER OF REASONS FOR GCOB NON RESPONSE ON PROJECT TOP SEA PROPOSAL.

2. ADDERLEY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT, FROM AMBASSADOR'S POINT OF VIEW, THERE WERE ONLY TWO ASPECTS TO TOP SEA. FIRST, THE NECESSITY FOR IT, WITH WHICH GCOB DID NOT DISAGREE. SECOND, ITS CONTEXT IN WHICH US THINKING WAS THAT THERE ARE FACILITIES, THERE ARE OPERATING RIGHTS, AND THERE ARE PROJECTS WHICH DO NOT FALL INTO EITHER OF THESE CATEGORIES, OF WHICH TOP SEA IS ONE.

3. US HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT GCOB SAW NOT ONLY THOSE ASPECTS, BUT THREE OTHERS. FIRST, CUBA HAD MADE CLAIM TO CAY SAL AREA 10-12 YEARS AGO. BRITISH HAD INFORMED
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GCOB ONLY YEAR AGO THAT CUBANS STILL HOLD TO CLAIM, AND

ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER INDEPENDENCE US VESSEL HAD PUT ASHORE A BEACH PARTY IN THE AREA. SECOND, US-BAHAMIAN COOPERATION IN AREA MIGHT PRECIPITATE THE KIND OF BAHAMIAN-CUBAN ISSUE, E.G. FISHERIES, WHICH WOULD BE OF NO GREAT CONSEQUENCE TO US, BUT COULD HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR GCOB. THIRD, THERE ARE THOSE OCASSIONS WHEN THE GCOB DOES NOT WANT TO SAY NO TO U.S. BUT CANNOT SAY YES. TOP SEA WAS ONE OF THEM.

4. AMBASSADOR ASKED ADDERLEY HOW SITUATION WOULD BE CHANGED WERE THE FACILITIES AND OPERATING RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED. IN HIS VIEW, ADDERLEY WAS DESCRIBING GCOB CONCERNS ABOUT CUBA AND THE CAY SAL AREA WHICH WERE OF A CONSTANT NATURE. ADDERLEY AGREED THAT THIS POSSIBLY WAS SO, BUT THAT GCOB REPLY WAS FOR THE PRESENT. AT THIS TIME, BOTH CUBA AND THE BAHAMAS HAVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER "ON THE BACKBURNER", WHERE THE BAHAMAS AT LEAST, WANTS THEM TO STAY. ALSO, THE BAHAMAS DOES NOT KNOW HOW THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT WOULD REACT AND DOES NOT CARE TO FIND OUT BY RAISING THE CAY SAL CLAIM PROBLEM.

5. WITH THIS RESPONSE FROM ADDERLEY, AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD SUGGEST TO US GOVERNMENT THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, A NEW SITE AWAY FROM CAY SAL AREA SHOULD BE SELECTED AND THE REQUEST RESUBMITTED. ADDERLEY REPLIED HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE KIND OF CHANGE THAT IN TURN WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR GCOB TO AGREE TO PROJECT.
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